

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1913

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, OEXC, VE
SUBJECT: ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION WITH VENEZUELA

REF: (A) STATE 018131 (B) CARACAS 1107 (C) CARACAS 1852

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET FEB 24 WITH VICE MINISTERS OF ENERGY AREVALO REYES AND ULISES RAMIREZ TO REVIEW EXCHANGES PROPOSED BY REF A AND DETERMINE THOSE AREAS WHICH ARE OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST TO THE GOV. THE GOV OFFICIALS ADVISED US THAT BOTH MINISTER OF ENERGY HERNANDEZ AND PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD REVIEWED THE OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSAL WE HAD PROVIDED (REF B) AND APPROVED IT IN GENERAL TERMS.

2. REYES AND RAMIREZ AGREED THAT ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY/PROCESSING AND ENERGY SYSTEMS ANALYSIS ARE PRIORITY AREAS, BUT ALSO EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN COAL AND BIOCONVERSION. AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES IN THE TWO PRIORITY AREAS SHOULD BE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS WITH FINAL APPROVAL TO COME DURING THE MARCH 6 MEETING OF MINISTER HERNANDEZ AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER:

A) ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY-TWO OR THREE US EXPERTS
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TO VISIT VENEZUELA FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10. REYES REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT THE GOV IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF ANY WORK DONE IN THE PROCESSING OF HEAVY OIL ONCE IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE.

B) ENERGY SYSTEMS ANALYSIS - TWO OR THREE VENEZUELAN TO VISIT THE US FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 17.

3. IN THE FIELDS OF COAL AND BIOCONVERSION, IT APPEARED THAT IT MAY BE MORE USEFUL TO MOVE DIRECTLY TO ON SITE VISITS OF APPROPRIATE US FACILITIES BY VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS WORKING IN THESE AREAS. WE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING UP TO FOUR OF THE EMBASSY'S INTERNATIONAL VISITORS GRANTS TO PROVIDE 30 DAY ORIENTATION VISITS BY 2 OR 3 COAL EXPERTS AND 1 OR 2 OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BIOCONVERSION OF MUNICIPAL WASTES. IF THESE GRANTS ARE APPROVED, WE WOULD TENTATIVELY SUGGEST TRAVEL OF THESE GROUPS TO BEGIN MAY 15. THE EMBASSY EXPECTS TO SUBMIT FORMAL REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF THESE GRANTS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

4. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WASHINGTON'S COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULEING GIVEN ABOVE, SO THAT WE MAY INFORM THE GOV. THE MINISTRY OFFICIALS HOPE TO ADVISE US OF MINISTER HERENANDEZ'S REACTION THIS WEEK.
CROWLEY

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